

# LIBERAL OP FREEDOM.

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## Select Poetry.

### The Revolutionary Soldiers.

A glorious day they were—the tried  
The true of ancient time—  
Our glorious day, who died and died  
For this our own free time—  
The day that saw our nation's birth,  
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men, hold in bondage about 3,000,000 slaves. The States inhabited by them cover a division of the American Union larger than the other in territory, but smaller in population.

Now, wholly apart from men's intentional efforts to restrict slavery, God so works, that with every census the proportion in wealth and population between the slave and free States increases. The slave States are comparatively weaker and poorer every year. If we can find the cause of this, increasing disproportion, we can find the way in which we can go to work as "laborers with God."

The amount of this disproportion, and of its gradual increase, appears in the following figures:

In 1820 the States now known as free States had 1,512,273 inhabitants.  
In 1830 the States had 4,455,759  
In 1840 the States had 14,435,229  
In 1850 the States had 29,441,692

The two sections nearly equal in 1820 are in 1850 almost as 3 to 2.

The cause of this great disproportion is readily ascertained. During these many years, by a wonderful Providence, to which human wit did not, with this aim, contribute at all, God was bringing into the free States a great pilgrimage of free men and women. He is never known to have led from land to land. In the great movement of his children from Egypt to the neighboring land of Palestine, he led in 40 years three millions of his people. But in this latter manifestation of His power, so great and so still, He has so ordered the political changes of Europe, the course of ocean commerce, and the necessities of Labor and Manufacture in America, that He has led in twenty years more than three millions of his children over an ocean path of 3000 miles, and has placed them in a land where they might serve his purposes, and—though themselves very ignorant, often superstitious and blind—(so were the people whom Moses led)—may still unconsciously advance His will. Of course they came to those States where labor is honorable and not a shame. And, because they came, the States where they came gain upon the slave States, in the proportion which has been indicated; and, gaining in population which is a laboring population, they gain in wealth as well.

By such means, without any human effort, prompted by this special purpose, has God enlarged the numbers and wealth of the States whose institutions support human freedom.

What indication does this give as to the best method of carrying human freedom further?

1. It shows, that He is not wholly satisfied to leave the triumph of freedom to the gradual extension of ideas, or to what is called the "public opinion of the world." He does not trust this more than he did at the outset of the gospel.

He has, rather, reinforced the free States by a preponderance of the American population, which in any balance of power, sets them far beyond the slave States. Although those whom he has removed from land to land have themselves no such intention, though they were often weak and ignorant, He who works His will even by the means of human weakness, makes their movement contribute to his great designs.

2. It shows that if He needs it, whole nations can move from continent to continent. And that the system of Providence which has given such increase of strength to freedom, may not go still farther. If the emigration of the weak, superstitious and ignorant, have added thus to the political might of the Northern States, what may the emigration of the strong, the Christian men and women do? And, if a nation can move from continent to continent, to fulfill unconsciously a great design of God, is it not possible for men, working with God, to transport from place to place of our own America such bodies of His children as shall carry the gospel, establish freedom, and work out the wonderful designs of his will?

III. In the study of these questions we find that there already exists, as a remarkable characteristic of the American people, a desire to remove from the places of their birth, and to redeem to civilization whatever wilderness may open before them. It is not fair to speak of this merely as a love of adventure.

It is not, again, simply weariness of old habits. These furnish a share of motive, but these are not all. It is no whim, no fancy, no mere passion. It is rather a principle, deeply seated in the American heart. The American people have been taught something of religious history. And it remembers, that whenever God has wished to put the race upon the pathway for his very greatest victories, he has done it by an Emigration. It remembers how he called Abraham to emigrate from Ur, and again from Haran, into the Land of Promise. It remembers how He established His own peculiar people, by means of an Emigration. So also in political history. We ought rather to say that there is a principle, born in their national life, which bids them subdue the wilderness while there is a wilderness to subdue.

In obedience to this longing, and as a series of other causes springing predominantly from the movements of commerce and the arts, there is a regular westward march of the American people, unobscured and all engrossing as a tide of the ocean.

The French philosopher De Toqueville calculated the rapidity of this tide,

and stated it as seventeen miles a year. Now, probably, it moves still faster than then. It is a movement which does not chiefly consist of the foreign emigrants attempt frontier life. The best pioneers are the American born, of those States which are not unused to hardship.

Difficult to estimate in numbers as this movement is, there can be no doubt that at the end of every year three hundred thousand persons live farther west than they did at the beginning of the year. Nor is this movement made up of the changes for mere convenience; like the removal of men from Fall River to Holyoke, from Holyoke to Troy, when change of employment offers. Such removals would be in a great measure counterbalanced by similar removals eastward. It is rather a hardy, adventurous journey. The examination of the statistics show that of the three hundred thousand who now move westward every year, nearly half move even as far as the frontier line of the States and Territories: to the very edge of civilization. In the ten years between 1840 and 1850, the States or Territories which formed successively the outer edge of our system were Illinois, Missouri, Arkansas; and, later, Iowa, Wisconsin, Texas, Minnesota, Utah, Oregon, and California. In these ten years about one million one hundred thousand persons emigrated into those States and Territories.

If then, we should wish to follow the great lesson of Providence teaches us, by its arrangement for enlarging the population and power of the free States, we have already existing an immense tide-wave of western emigration. This is an agent not to be resisted. Will it prove to work in such ways as may favor our great aim?

What its tendency is will appear from the figures from which the statement now made have been computed.

Of these frontier States and Territories, the population in 1840 and 1850, the natural increase by estimate, and the increase from emigration as calculated by the parallel estimate, are shown in the following table:—

Free. P. 1840. Nat. Inc. by est. P. 1850. Nat. Inc. by est. P. 1850. Nat. Inc. by est. P. 1850. Nat. Inc. by est.

Illinois, 475,000 118,000 593,000 831,000  
Iowa, 43,000 10,750 53,750 122,000  
Wisconsin, 95,000 2,500 97,500 208,000  
Minnesota, 6,000 6,000 12,000  
Utah, 12,000 12,000 24,000  
California, 6,000 1,500 7,500 21,000

655,000 138,750 793,750 1,470,000  
Slave. P. 1840. Nat. Inc. by est. P. 1850. Nat. Inc. by est. P. 1850. Nat. Inc. by est. P. 1850. Nat. Inc. by est.

Texas, 125,000 31,250 156,250 312,500  
Arkansas, 95,000 23,750 118,750 237,500  
Missouri, 95,000 23,750 118,750 237,500  
Louisiana, 125,000 31,250 156,250 312,500  
Alabama, 125,000 31,250 156,250 312,500  
Georgia, 125,000 31,250 156,250 312,500  
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